

Remarks:

In an Office action dated June 25, 2004, the Examiner indicated that the application contains patentably distinct species including:

- I. Embodiment 1, Figures 1, 2 and 7.
- II. Embodiment 2, Figures 3 through 6 and 8.

The Office action thus required election of a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits. Applicants respectfully disagree with this characterization of the application, and thus requested an interview with the Examiner. Such an interview was granted, and on July 15, 2004, the undersigned attorney for applicant participated in a telephone conference with the Examiner.

Pursuant to the July 15, 2004 telephone conference, applicants understand that the Examiner is accepting of a modification to the election/restriction requirement. As understood, the Examiner now considers the application to contain patentably distinct species including:

- I. Embodiment 1, Figures 1-4 and 6-8.
- II. Embodiment 2, Figures 1-3 and 5-8.

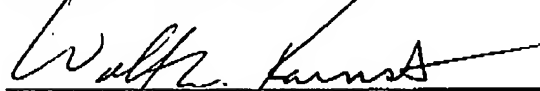
Although applicants still feel that it is appropriate to consider all embodiments in the present application, in the interest of furthering prosecution on the merits, applicants hereby elect Species I (Figs. 1-4 and 6-8), with traverse, and withdraw claims 10 and 23 from consideration in the event that no generic claim is held to be allowable. Applicants assert that claims 1-9, 11-22 and 24-35 all read on the elected Species I. Claims 1-10, 12-21 and 23-35 all read on non-elected Species II. Claims 1-9, 12-21 and 24-35 all are understood to be generic to the indicated species. In the event that

any generic claim is held allowable, applicant understands that the withdrawn claims will be considered in the present application.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if the Examiner has any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

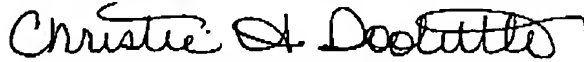
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner M. Koval, Group Art Unit 2851, Commissioner for Patents, at facsimile number (703) 872-9306 on July 23, 2004.



Christie A. Doolittle

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Serial No. 10/608,972
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